

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
MFA FINAL VISUAL PRESENTATION

by

ROBERT IAN NICHOLS

A THESIS

SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH
IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF FINE ARTS


IN

PAINTING

DEPARTMENT OF ART AND DESIGN

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

FALL 2002



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THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH

The undersigned certify that they have read, and recommend to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, for acceptance, a thesis entitled:

Final Visual Presentation

submitted by ROBERT IAN NICHOLS partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Fine Art.

The University of Alberta

RELEASE FORM

NAME OF AUTHOR ROBERT IAN NICHOLS TITLE OF
THESIS FINAL VISUAL PRESENTATION DEGREE FOR
WHICH THESIS WAS GRANTED MASTER OF FINE ARTS
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DEPARTMENT OF ART AND DESIGN

GRADUATE STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

I hereby release the following works for incorporation into the University Collections,
University of Alberta, as part of the Master of Fine Arts Thesis Collection:

TITLE	DATE	MEDIUM	SIZE
The Temple of Athena Nike in my Studio	2002	Oil on Panel	36" x 48"

Insurance Value: \$1,200.00

Artist Statement

My paintings are images that represent forms in space. They are untraditional still life painted in a more traditional method. Generally, these works are produced with a focus on light, paint, color and geometry. The space that is created in the work is a contrast of real-like object and flatter ground. This contrast is partly a comment upon the abstract nature of any painted image.

The subjects in the works are invented by the assemblage of found objects, which are composed in the studio and then translated onto a canvas. The subjects reference architecture while at the same time retain some anonymity as forms. Each title is intended to frame the viewing experience and allude to an overall architectural narrative. This narrative serves to articulate both my own wonder of human existence and of the beauty contained within the constructed world.

The act of painting these constructed forms is an inquisition into essence. It is not necessarily an understanding of the essence of the painted object that results; rather, the display of odd object in a vast environment results in a general reflection upon the essence of all things. Hence it is this unfolding that yields an expression of art and thereby reaches humanity:

Art reveals itself in the psychic understanding of the inner essence of things and gives form to the relation of man with *nothing*, with the nature of the absolute. (Bruce Lee)

Slide List

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. The Mausoleum at Halicarnasus
2002 | 15. Temple of Athena Nike
in my Studio
2002 |
| 2. Petronas Tower
Oil on panel
2001 | 16. Tower of Babel
In my Studio
2002 |
| 3. The Step Pyramid
at Medum
2002 | 17. The Ziggurat of
the Goddess Anu
2002 |
| 4. The Column of Trajan
2002 | 18. Markets of Trajan
2002 |
| 5. Mound
2002 | 19. Exeter Library
2002 |
| 6. Chartes Cathedral
2002 | 20. Observatory
2002 |
| 7. Obelisk on the River Thames
2002 | |
| 8. The Ruined Temple of
Artemis at Ephesus
2002 | |
| 9. London
2002 | |
| 10. Cologne Cathedral
2002 | |
| 11. The Lighthouse at Alexandria
2002 | |
| 12. The Home of Le Corbusier
2002 | |
| 13. The Hanging Gardens at
The Palace of Nebuchadnezzar
2002 | |
| 14. Victoria Embankment
2002 | |

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